UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Glad to hear there's extra money around

From Bloomberg: *The University of California, Los Angeles has already paid out $4.8 million to players under a new revenue-sharing rules, its athletic director said [last] Thursday. "A lot of checks are being signed," Martin Jarmond said at Bloomberg Power Players New York. "And more to come." The school has been signing checks since last month as part of its compliance with a new economic model brought by a court settlement earlier this year on how to compensate college athletes. Schools can spend as much as $20.5 million.*

UCLA is a member of the Big 10 Conference, which announced a multi-year agreement with PayPal Holdings Inc. to distribute payments from universities to student athletes...

Full story at https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-09-04/ucla-has-already-paid-athletes-nearly-5-million-under-new-rules.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 96

From the Daily Pennsylvanian: *A March lawsuit against the University alleging that Penn Medicine's Black Doctors Directory was racially discriminatory has been settled, with the directory renamed as part of the resolution. Do No Harm, a conservative national nonprofit focused on rejecting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in the medical field, sued the former Black Doctors Directory after a white member was denied. As part of the settlement, the directory was been renamed to the WURD Radio Community Health and Wellness Directory, and WURD will expand the database to include doctors "who have demonstrated a commitment to helping underserved patients and communities," according to Ashanti Martin, WURD's general manager and interim program director.*

"We are pleased that this matter has been closed, and that this valuable online resource will continue to be available to help patients gather important information about potential health care providers and make decisions about where to receive care," Holly Auer, a Penn Med spokesperson, wrote in a statement to The Daily Pennsylvanian...

Diversity initiatives in medicine have increasingly experienced funding cuts and legal action, both nationally and in Philadelphia. Drexel University's medical leadership fellowship that was previously women-only began to admit men after Do No Harm alleged the program violated Title IX. The group has also submitted complaints to the Department of Health and Human Services in response to race-based initiatives at Duke University Health System and Geisinger College of Health Science.

Full story at https://www.thedp.com/article/2025/08/penn-medicine-lawsuit-settlement-wurd-radio-directory-renamed.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Drexel U, Duke, health care, politics, U of Pennsylvania

Force Majeure

Force Majeure clauses are sometimes inserted into legal contracts to deal with unexpected emergency situations. The clause will say that if a qualifying event occurs, such as a natural disaster, the contract is voided or modified in some way.

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty are fighting back
- Faculty Lawsuit Demands Public Access to Trump Administration's Settlement Demands on University of California
- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy
- Stand up for values in the face of Trump's $300 million cut to UCLA scholars
- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 39. Attack Theory for Education - 9/28/2025
- Liner Note 38. The University of California's Charlie Kirk Tribute Act - 9/16/2025
- Why Should We "Stand Up for the UC?" (Guest Post) - 9/1/2025

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- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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politics (2187) UC (2046) UC Regents (1853) health care (1409) State Budget (1259) governor (1105) UC budget crisis (954) UC-Berkeley (890) diversity (879) pension (655) pensions (589) admissions (528) tuition (523) athletics (505) CSU (401) transportation (385) UC-Davis (373) online education (338) UCOP (304) uc retirement

A recent labor agreement with a student union at **Duke University** includes a force majeure clause that reportedly would terminate the contract if a budget emergency occurs as a result of a federal action but gives the union a guaranteed opportunity to propose alternatives:

*The contract carves out some insurance for the University, too. In the case of a "Force Majeure Event" — a financial emergency that prevents Duke from continuing normal operations — the University can temporarily break the contract's terms, and DGSU [Duke Graduate Student Union] members would not be allowed to strike... The University must notify the union "immediately" once such an event is initiated, and DGSU then has the right to an expedited negotiating period to "come up with alternative solutions to any cuts." DGSU claims the "Force Majeure" clause is highly uncommon, citing **Emory University**'s graduate union as the only other to receive such a provision during bargaining...*

Full story from the The Chronicle (Duke student newspaper) at:

https://www.dukechronicle.com/article/954366ba-2cc5-4e08-b82b-2e4f6166062a.

Since information flows around, and with two universities already doing it, one wonders if upcoming bargaining at UC will not include discussion of such a clause.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Duke, Emory, strikes

Monday, September 8, 2025

Klein vs. Bernardo - Part 4 (now we wait)

Concluding arguments in the Klein vs. Bernardo trial have, well, concluded as of last week. So now we wait for the judge's verdict. For those who don't recall what this trial was about, it goes back to 2020 in the midst of the pandemic when George Floyd protests took place. Klein, who lectures in the Anderson School, was asked whether he would grade Black students more leniently and emailed back a response as to why he wouldn't. Some were offended by the tone of his response. And, as a result, Klein was suspended by then-Dean Bernardo, although subsequently reinstated. He contends that the bad PR caused by his suspension, which he views as unwarranted, damaged his outside consulting income. The defense argues that the dean acted reasonably and if there was damage to Klein's income, it was caused by his email rather than the suspension.
The Daily Bruin has been attending the trial and providing summaries which you can find at:

https://dailybruin.com/category/breaking/klein-trial-coverage.

And a reminder to those who haven't been paying attention: The image shown is a Klein Bottle:

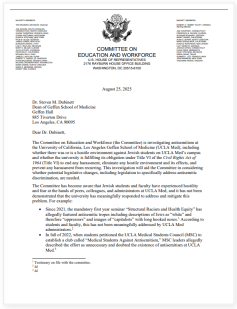
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klein_bottle

which is totally irrelevant to this case, except for the name.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 12:00 PM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, UCLA

Letters - Part 2



COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

August 25, 2025

Dr. Steven M. Dubinett
Dean of Geffen School of Medicine
at UCLA
885 Tiverton Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Dear Dr. Dubinett,

The Committee on Education and Workforce (the Committee) is investigating antisemitism at the University of California, Los Angeles Geffen School of Medicine (UCLA Med), including whether there was or is a hostile environment against Jewish students on UCLA Med's campus and whether the university is fulfilling its obligations under Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* (Title VI) to end any harassment, eliminate any hostile environment and its effects, and prevent its recurrence. Additionally, the Committee is investigating UCLA Med's response and whether potential legislative changes, including legislation to specifically address antisemitic discrimination, are needed.

The Committee has become aware that Jewish students and faculty have experienced hostility and fear at the hands of peers, colleagues, and administrators at UCLA Med, and it has not been adequately addressed. The university has meaningfully responded to address and mitigate this problem. For example:

- Since 2021, the mandatory first year seminar "Structural Racism and Health Equity" has allegedly featured antisemitic tropes including descriptions of Jews as "white" and Israelis "oppressors" and images of "capitalists" with long hooked noses.[1] According to multiple sources familiar with the class, this has not been meaningfully addressed by UCLA Med administrators.[2]
- In fall of 2022, when students petitioned the UCLA Medical Students Council (MSC) to pass a resolution with a shift called "Medical Students Against Antisemitism," MSC leaders allegedly described the effort as unnecessary and doubted the existence of antisemitism at UCLA Med.[3]

[1] Testimony on file with the committee.
[2] Id.

As blog readers will know, both UCLA (med school) and UC-San Francisco received requests for documents from the US House Committee on Education and Workforce. See:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/08/letters.html.

Today, September 8th, is the deadline set for receiving those documents.

We are also about a week from the next Regents meetings when such matters will be discussed, albeit behind closed doors.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, politics, UC-San Francisco, UCLA

(299) ucrp (298) audio (291) traffic (290) new hotel-conference center (282) UC enrollment (279) enrollment (255) UC-San Diego (252) community colleges (236) LAO (223) UC-Irvine (182) fund raising (165) UC-San Francisco (157) UC-Santa Barbara (156) UC-Santa Cruz (155) controller (146) faculty center (142) UC-Riverside (139) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (121) UC-Merced (112) faculty pay (109) Master Plan (102) Yudof (90) UCRS retirement (62) Faculty Association at UCLA (60) parking (60) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (34) copyright (32) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (21) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) Regents (14) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UC Irvine (3) UCpolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

Blog Archive

▼ 2025 (837)
▼ October (3)
Watch the Regents Afternoon Meeting of Sept. 17, 2025
Straws in the Wind - Part 117
Subway Webinar
► September (116)
► August (115)
► July (101)
► June (96)
► May (85)
► April (81)
► March (83)
► February (76)
► January (81)
► 2024 (832)
► 2023 (828)
► 2022 (719)
► 2021 (710)
► 2020 (914)
► 2019 (671)
► 2018 (595)
► 2017 (666)
► 2016 (715)
► 2015 (765)
► 2014 (704)
► 2013 (776)
► 2012 (839)
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

Straws in the Wind - Part 95

From CalMatters: *Cal Poly Pomona postponed its annual fall job fair this week after students, alumni and community members criticized its inclusion of Customs and Border Protection as an in-person recruiter, underscoring the heightened sensitivity about immigration agencies on college campuses this fall. The interim president of the Los Angeles County campus with nearly 28,000 students — the majority of whom are Latino — said leadership responded to the criticism and decided to rethink their approach to job fairs.*

"We have listened carefully and are leveraging this input to design career programming this fall that is more personal and better tailored to the evolving needs of our students and to workforce demands," said Iris S. Levine in a public letter... "I want to thank those of you who reached out and shared your perspectives with honesty and passion," she added...

Full story at https://calmatters.org/education/higher-education/2025/08/cal-poly-pomona/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Cal Poly Pomona, politics

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 56

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard College cut course assistant pay in some departments by $2 and has begun reducing teaching assistant positions for undergraduates amid University-wide budget cuts. At least 60 CAs in the Math department, who had been paid $23 per hour for jobs with in-class work, were informed in August that their new wage for the fall would be $21 – part of a position reclassification initiative by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Several Physics department CAs also had their fall pay docked by $2.*

Two departments — Math and Computer Science — that regularly hire dozens of undergraduate course assistants to staff classes, also cut back on their CA hiring for the fall. Computer Science 50 professor David J. Malan '99 wrote in a statement that the changes were due in part to budget cuts, and Upper-Level Math CA Coordinator Oliver Knill wrote in an email to CAs that the department was "under lots of pressure to reduce the number of CAs as budget cuts are everywhere." ...

The change allows Harvard to reduce spending on teaching assistants after it announced a University-wide hiring freeze and paused merit-based wage increases for all faculty and staff. Several Harvard schools have also laid off staff as Harvard battles with the Trump administration over federal funding...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/9/4/ca-pay-cut-hiring-reduction/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard, politics

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